

OFFICE OF POPULATION CENSUSES AND SURVEYS
SOCIAL SURVEY DIVISION

Army welfare

A survey carried out for the
Army Welfare Inquiry Committee
(Ministry of Defence)

Malcolm Wilders

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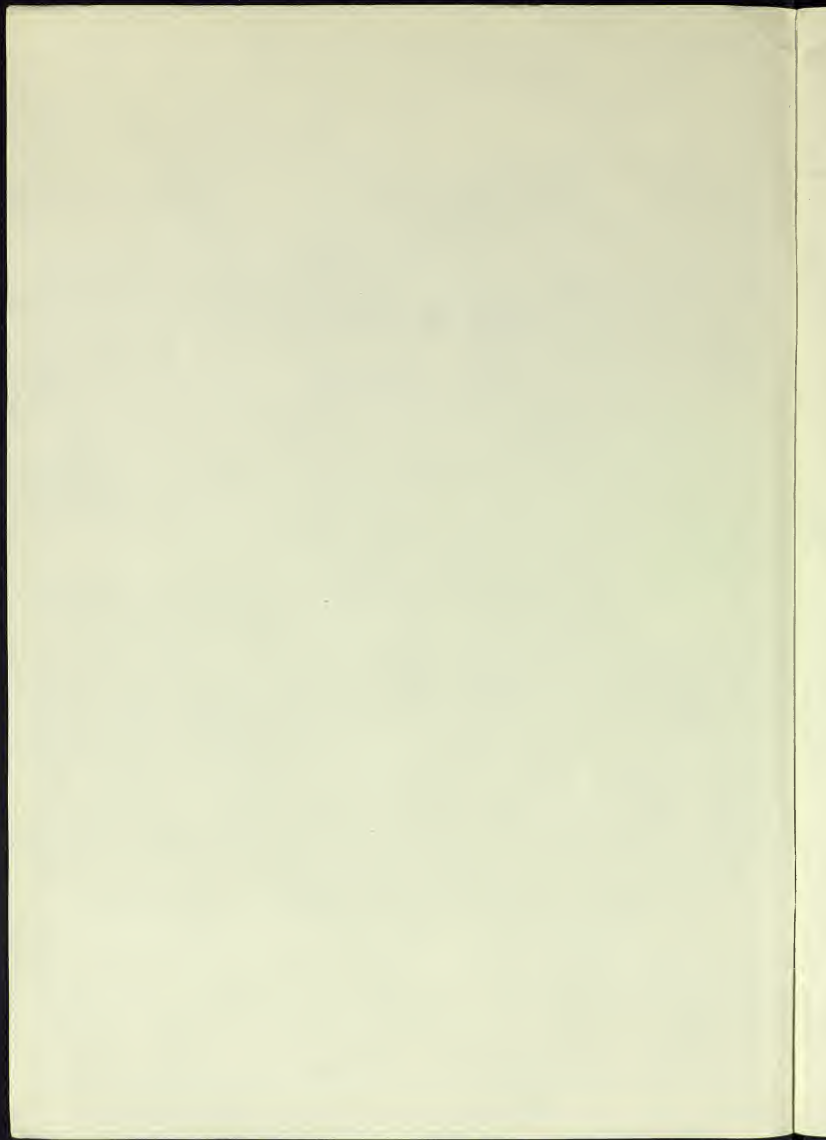
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Introductory note

This is a report of a survey carried out in June/July 1975 at the request of the Army Welfare Inquiry Committee. Some of the results have already been presented in the Committee's report published by the Ministry of Defence (HMSO, 1976).

The survey was restricted to groups of particular interest, and interviews were obtained with young single soldiers, young and older married soldiers and their wives, and young married officers and their wives. The total number of interviews achieved was over 600.



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Note to tables

An asterisk (*) in the tables represents 0.5 per cent or less

1 Army welfare facilities

1.1 Some historical developments in Army welfare

The early history of the Army reveals a scant concern for the welfare of the soldier and even less for the wives and children of soldiers. What little concern there was for the soldiers tended to be concentrated on the physical essentials of a fighting force. Prior to the Crimean War some meagre developments had taken place in the care of the sick or wounded but the Army still suffered heavy losses due to primitive medical facilities, disease, inadequate food and poor accommodation.

Little official recognition was given to the institution of marriage especially among the ranks. At times it seemed that the Army was more willing to accept the bands of prostitutes that followed soldiers than they were the wives of soldiers. Although many soldiers did marry, it was not until the late 17th century that 'Other ranks' were officially permitted to marry, and even then only to the extent of four or sometimes six wives per hundred men. Officers were also restricted in their marriage plans, and were not permitted to marry until the age of 30, by which time they had usually incurred a number of financial debts (a number of postings abroad existed by which financial recuperation could be achieved). Officers also needed to gain the permission of the Colonel of the Regiment to marry.

Separation for those married, whether officially or not, was a critical point in the couples' relationship. Soldiers could be separated from their wives for anything up to 15 years, that is if they ever saw them again. For those wives 'on the strength' (ie those who had not married below the permitted age of 26) ballots were organised to enable six wives per company to go with their husbands to the battlefield. Since no provisions were made for the wives and children left behind, it is not surprising that many wives contravened regulations and went with their husbands. Abroad they faced the likelihood of disease, sickness and a high death rate. For those wives whose husbands died on the battlefield their situation was desperate, as from the moment of death they ceased to be entitled to rations for themselves and their families. They were forced to rely on charity, or more likely to remarry as soon as possible. For many wives the prospects of the battlefield were preferable to staying at home where they had to rely on the parish (prior to the Poor Laws) for help, often with little success.

Army accommodation was non-existent and there were no regimental barracks or depots in garrison towns. The Army was billeted in hostels and lodging houses as it

moved about and semi-permanent camps when quartered in a garrison town. Officers usually made their own arrangements and were generally comfortable. The wives of soldiers, providing they were 'on the strength' could look forward to sharing the barrack room with 80 other soldiers and to the minimum of privacy.

The turning point in Army welfare came with the Crimean War (1854-56). Although this was the last battlefield where women accompanied their husbands, it was also the first fully reported and photographed encounter. The appalling conditions of the Army and their wives were finally brought to the attention of the public. For the Army wife the Crimean War was a major stage in official recognition. As Veronica Bamfield¹ states, 'Whatever the disgrace and maladministration of the Crimean War, this lasting result was a good one. It liberated the Army wife into being a person for a right to bear her husband children and to have conditions in which to bring them up as human beings.'

The post-Crimean War reforms were to improve the living quarters, conditions and welfare of the soldier and his wife. In particular, attempts were made to provide married quarters for men married 'on the strength'. Although these buildings were basic in design and amenities, they were always full. Following the new reforms Staff Sergeants were all permitted to marry, 50 per cent of other Sergeants, and 40 per cent of other ranks. Permission for the latter was only given after seven years service, two good conduct badges and savings amounting to £5. Other reforms took place in troop conditions, hospitals were improved and extended, schools developed and pensions for widows improved from the 'widow's man' system. Following the work of Florence Nightingale and many others, a number of medical improvements were also undertaken.

Although considerable improvements had been made in Army welfare, provisions on the battlefield were still deficient up to the Boer War (1899-1902). The Report of His Majesty's Commissioners on the War on South Africa 1903² was particularly critical of the deficiency in stores, hospitals, sanitation and war plans, as well as of an apparent lack of concern by officers for their men. A major expansion of facilities took place in the 1914-18 War, with particularly large expansions in the provision of medical services. In 1916 an Expeditionary Force Canteen was set up with depots and divisional canteens as well as mobile canteens. Organisations such as the YMCA

¹Veronica Bamfield, *On the Strength, The Story of the British Army Wife*, Charles Knight, 1974, p 77.

²Matthew Holden, *The British Soldier*, Wayland Publications, 1974.

and the Church Army made further improvements in the welfare facilities available to troops. In the First World War 'welfare for the troops in the field for the first time progressed far beyond the sutler's cart and the local pub.'³

The Second World War saw the continuation of welfare improvements with the establishment of the NAAFI and the emergence of ENSA and other organisations concerned with the entertainment of the troops. Over the last 30 years there has been a growing interest in the welfare of Army personnel leading to a number of provisions being introduced, such as Housing Commandants and Families Officers.

1.2 The present welfare facilities

The following section is a brief outline of the main welfare personnel/organisations available to soldiers and their families. The availability of any or all of these facilities varies considerably and will be dealt with in a later part of the report.

Officers and wives

All Officers who have responsibility for soldiers are involved in the welfare of their men. The main responsibility for the welfare of soldiers on the camp is vested in the Commanding Officer. The wives of Officers may also undertake on a voluntary basis to concern themselves with the welfare of unit families.

Housing Commandants

Following the Sweeney Report⁴ the Executive Committee of the Army made specific proposals in April 1967 for a system of housing management. This resulted in the setting up of a military housing manager — the Housing Commandant. Among the specifications for this post was that 'he should have received training in the special problems of Army welfare and the functions of local authority and civilian welfare services.' Thus, apart from dealing with allocation, maintenance and supervision of quarters, the Housing Commandant has a responsibility for assisting families, particularly those whose husbands are absent on unaccompanied tours.

The Housing Commandant is supported by a resident Estate Warden in all married quarters estates where there are more than 200 dwellings (excluding flats); resident Janitors for blocks of flats on the scale of one Janitor per 75 flats; and a pool of labourers at a scale of one man per 200 dwellings of any type.

³Correlli Barnett, *Britain and her Army, A Military, Political and Social Survey*, Allen Lane, 1970, p. 392.

⁴Lt Col Sweeney (Chairman), *Housing Management in the Army*, Joint MOD/MPBW Working Party, unpublished.

Unit Families Officers

The Unit Families Officer (UFO) is presently responsible for providing assistance to families while soldiers are away on unaccompanied tour, as well as providing an advisory function on welfare matters. It has been suggested that the Housing Commandant scheme may well make the position of UFO redundant. However, Densham-Booth⁵ points out that the Housing Commandant, in his role as estate manager and social relations officer, will not be in a position to deal with individual family problems. Although he may well be able to identify problem areas he will still need to refer individual cases for follow-up action, namely to the UFO.

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association

SSAFA exists to look after the welfare of families of Service men and to give personal advice on their problems and difficulties. To give effect to this task in the United Kingdom they maintain a network of branch representatives, usually down to parish level. Over the past ten years there has been a steady increase in their workload, particularly concerning young married families and their matrimonial problems. The organisation relies largely on voluntary work which has not always provided a sufficiently adequate welfare service.

Other welfare personnel

In addition to the above mentioned personnel concerned with welfare, a number of other Army personnel have involvements in the field. Some of these are Army Doctors, Chaplains and the Army Legal Service all of whom may assist soldiers and their families with their personal problems. Other welfare facilities available to the soldier are provided by the Local Authority, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and other such organisations generally available to the civilian (eg the National Council for Civil Liberties).

1.3 The Army Welfare Committee

In May 1974 the Ministry of Defence set up an Army inquiry headed by Professor J C Spencer with terms of reference as follows:

'To review the welfare provision for Army personnel and their families in the United Kingdom during and at the end of their service, in relation to the services provided by Local Authorities; to consider ways of preventing or ameliorating social and domestic difficulties; and to make recommendations.'

As part of this investigation the Social Survey Division of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys has undertaken the survey described in this report.

⁵Lt Col D F Densham-Booth, *Social Planning 1970s-80s, Army Housing in the United Kingdom*, unpublished.

2 The samples

2.1 Introduction

The Committee was interested in the views and experiences of a number of different groups of British Army personnel but as the resources and time available for the surveys were limited they decided to confine the study to four groups; young single soldiers, young married soldiers, older married soldiers and young married officers. These groups were selected as presenting varied problems in the sphere of welfare activities. The time and resources available limited the size of the inquiry to a total sample of about 600, and most of these interviews were to be with soldiers rather than officers. The young officers sample was very small (68) but it was felt worthwhile to get some indication of how this group compared, in welfare terms, with the others.

2.2 The four samples

(i) The young single soldiers: single soldiers under 25 years of age on 1 June 1975 of the rank of Lance-Corporal or below. (Junior soldiers, a trainee grade for entrants aged under 17½, were not included in the survey). Some 206 young single soldiers were interviewed; a response rate of 90 per cent.

(ii) Young married soldiers and their wives: married soldiers under 25 years of age on 1 June 1975 of the rank of Lance-Corporal or below. The 173 interviews achieved with this sample meant a response rate of 96 per cent.

(iii) Older married soldiers and their wives: soldiers who had served for 8–22 years on 1 June 1975 and had at least one child below 18 years of age. As many as 180 interviews were achieved; a response rate of 97 per cent.

(iv) Young officers and their wives: married officers, aged 22–32 on 1 June 1975. Some 68 interviews were carried out; a response rate of 97 per cent.

All four samples were restricted to men stationed in Great Britain during the period 4 June–11 July 1975 when the interviewing took place.

For the great majority of cases in each of the three samples of married soldiers, the interviews were carried out with both husband and wife present and taking part (in 89 per cent or more cases in each of the four samples). These samples included married men away in Northern Ireland whose wives were approached for interview.

For further details on the sampling see Appendix 1.

3 Characteristics of the achieved samples

Since the sample of young married officers was very small the results must be treated with caution. Not all the officers' results have been percentaged since the small base numbers do not justify this. Where the officers' results have been percentaged, these are to the nearest 5 per cent, so as to avoid any spurious impression of greater precision.

3.1 The distribution of Arms or Corps

With the exception of the older married soldiers, 20 per cent or more of each sampled group (soldiers and officers) were in the Infantry. The older married soldiers were less likely than were the other sampled groups to be in the Infantry. Approximately one in six of the older married soldiers were in the Royal Corps of Signals. Other Arms or Corps were widely distributed, each accounting for only a small proportion of the respective samples (Tables 1 and 2).

An attempt was made to compare the distribution of Arms or Corps in the achieved samples with the distribution of Arms or Corps in the relevant age and marital status groups in the Army as a whole. Unfortunately, no data are available to make such an exact comparison. However, it is fair to say that the various Arms or Corps were distributed in the achieved samples in proportions not dissimilar from what would have been expected if the sampling had been done from all Arms or Corps in the Army.

3.2 Paid rank of soldiers and officers

Nearly all (91 per cent) of the young single soldiers interviewed were Privates and only nine per cent Lance-Corporals.¹ Compared to the single soldiers, considerably more (35 per cent) of the young married soldiers were Lance-Corporals — the remaining 65 per cent were Privates.

Of the 180 older married soldiers in the survey, 31 per cent were Sergeants, 23 per cent Corporals, 16 per cent Staff Sergeants and 13 per cent Warrant Officers II. Other ranks included in the sample were Lance-Corporals (9 per cent), Privates (4 per cent) and Warrant Officers I (3 per cent).

Most of the young married officers were Captains (75 per cent). A further 15 per cent were Lieutenants and 10 per cent were Majors.

3.3 Present age

The age distribution of single soldiers tended to be concentrated between 17 and 20 (73 per cent). Twelve per cent were aged 17, 25 per cent aged 18, 20 per cent aged 19 and 16 per cent were aged 20. Thus the average age of young single soldiers was 19.5 years. Most of the young married soldiers were over 21 (89 per cent), the average age being 21.9 years.

¹The rank of Private includes, Sapper, Gunner, Driver and Trooper etc. equivalent ranks; the rank of Lance-Corporal includes Lance-Bombardier.

Table 1 The distribution of Arms or Corps in the Army

	— achieved samples (soldiers)		
	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers
	%	%	%
Infantry	33	28	14
Royal Engineers (RE)	13	11	4
Royal Corps of Signals (R.Sigs)	10	9	16
Royal Artillery (RA)	10	8	4
Royal Corps of Transport (RCT)	11	8	9
Army Catering Corps (ACC)	6	6	6
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME)	4	6	11
Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps (RAC)	3	10	6
Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC)	3	5	9
Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC)	2	4	8
Royal Military Police (RMP)	1	—	1
Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC)	—	—	1
Other Arms, Corps	4	5	11
Total	100	100	100
Base	206	173	180

Table 2 The distribution of Arms or Corps in the Army
— achieved sample (officers)

	Young married officers
	%
Infantry	20
Royal Corps of Signals (R.Sigs)	15
Royal Corps of Transport (RCT)	10
Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC)	10
Royal Artillery (RA)	5
Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC)	5
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME)	5
Royal Military Police (RMP)	5
Household Cavalry, Royal Armoured Corps (RAC)	5
Royal Engineers (RE)	5
Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC)	—
Army Catering Corps (ACC)	—
Other Arms, Corps	10
Total	100
Base	67

The majority of older married soldiers were over 30 (70 per cent), the average age being 32.8 years. Officers tended to be slightly younger, though 90 per cent were over 25. The average age of the officers was 28.8 years.

3.4 Age of joining the Army

As would be suggested from the Army recruitment policy, a career in the Army is usually undertaken at a young age. Nearly two thirds of both young single soldiers and young married soldiers were aged 17 or under when they joined the Army. The average age of joining the Army for single soldiers was 16.7 years and for young married soldiers 17.1 years.

Older married soldiers and officers tended to have joined the Army at a later age. Approximately half of the older married soldiers and less than a quarter of officers had joined the Army at 17 or under. The average age of joining for older married soldiers was 18.5 years and 18.7 years for officers.

3.5 Number of years in the Army

The achieved sample of single soldiers consisted mainly of 'new' recruits, with 73 per cent having served three years or less—21 per cent were actually in their first year of service, and the average number of years served was 2.5. On average the young married soldiers had served 4.6 years in the Army, with 68 per cent having served more than three years.

Table 3 Age on leaving full-time education

Age	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers	Young married officers	Boys leaving schools in England and Wales during 1970-71
	%	%	%	%	%
15 and under	60	73	76	10	62
16	31	17	17	5	15
17 or over	9	10	7	85	23
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Base	206	173	180	67	315,330

Older married soldiers had on average served 14 years in the Army, with 78 per cent having served for more than ten years. All the officers had been in the Army for three years or more, with 60 per cent having served ten years or more. The average number of years served in the Army by the young married officers was ten.

3.6 Soldiers' and Officers' education

For most soldiers their full-time education ended at 15 or under. A comparison of the England and Wales figures for boys leaving school during 1970-71 (this comparison avoids the change in the school leaving age in 1972) reveals a stronger tendency for the general population to remain at school after the age of 16.

Most of the young married officers ended their full-time education at either 17 or 18 (70 per cent). Compared to both the general population and the soldiers, officers were more likely to remain at school after the age of 16.

3.7 Wives' education

Most of the wives of soldiers ended their full-time education at 15 or under. A further quarter of the young soldiers' wives left full-time education at 16. This reveals a pattern similar to that of the general population of girl school leavers in England and Wales during 1970-71, although slightly more girls of the general population remain at school until at least 17.

Wives of officers had a similar pattern of education to their husbands, leaving full-time education at a later age than the general population of girl school leavers.

At the time of interview two thirds of both the wives of young soldiers and older soldiers did *not* have any formal education or vocational qualifications. Of the wives with qualifications, approximately half of each sampled group had GCE 'O' levels (including CSE Grade 1). A further half of the older soldiers' wives had CSEs below Grade 1. A few wives had qualifications which included 'A' levels, secretarial qualifications, teaching diplomas and nursing qualifications.

In contrast to the soldiers wives, only 10 per cent of the wives of officers did *not* have any qualifications. Of the remaining 60 wives with qualifications, 65 per cent had GCE 'O' levels (including CSE Grade 1), 25 per cent

²Department of Education and Science, *Statistics of Education 1971*, Vol 2, HMSO (London, 1971) pp 16-17.

GCE 'A' levels and 20 per cent had teaching diplomas. Other wives had a variety of qualifications including degrees, nursing and secretarial qualifications.

3.8 Pre-Army circumstances

Before joining the Army, approximately three quarters of the soldiers and officers had experienced at least some full-time employment. Over three quarters of the soldiers and approximately half of the officers were living with their parents immediately before joining the Army. Of those who were living somewhere other than with their parents, only two per cent or less of each sampled group of soldiers (compared with 30 per cent of the officers) were at boarding school immediately before they joined the Army. The remaining soldiers and officers were mainly living with other relatives or in their own homes.

3.9 Period of engagement

Of the interviewed single soldiers, 31 per cent had signed on for three years, 22 per cent for six years and 43 per cent for nine years. Although 78 per cent intended completing their present engagement, only 19 per cent of these soldiers said they would be extending it. Thus, of an original sample of 206 single soldiers, only 15 per cent said they would be completing and subsequently extending their present engagement. Of the young married soldiers interviewed 76 per cent had signed on for nine years, 16 per cent for six years and three per cent for three years. Three-quarters of these soldiers intended completing their present engagement, but only 28 per cent said they would be extending it — 28 per cent would not extend their engagement, 15 per cent did not know, and 29 per cent said it would depend, mainly on future prospects in the Army and on the job situation outside.

Lastly, of the older married soldiers interviewed, 70 per cent had signed on for 22 years, eight per cent for nine years and six per cent for three years. Of the 89 per cent intending completing their present engagement, 25 per cent said they would not extend it.

3.10 Number of moves and postings

Only 13 per cent of the single soldiers had been in the Army for five years or more, the remaining 179 had

limited experience of postings, with over two thirds never having been posted or posted once only.

Approximately half of all the young married soldiers had been in the Army for five years or more. Of these 42 per cent had been posted three or more times in the past five years. In contrast, of those soldiers who had been in the Army for less than five years, only 22 per cent had been posted three or more times.

The young married soldiers who had been in the Army for less than five years and had been posted since joining the Army were asked how many times they had moved. Some 41 per cent had not moved, 19 per cent had moved once, 9 per cent twice, 16 per cent three times and 15 per cent four times or more. Of those who had been in the Army for five years or more, 26 per cent had not moved house since their marriage, 23 per cent had moved once, 23 per cent twice, 14 per cent three times, and 14 per cent four times or more.

As many as 99 per cent of the older married soldiers had been in the Army for five years or more and nearly half had been posted three times or more in the last five years. Of those soldiers who had been in the Army for five years and had been posted in that time, 81 per cent had been married for five or more years. Only one per cent had not moved house in the past five years, 10 per cent had moved once, 15 per cent twice, 28 per cent three times and 46 per cent four times or more.

Nearly all the young married officers had been in the Army for five years or more, half had been posted four or more times in the past five years. Of those officers who had been married for five or more years, nearly three quarters had moved house four times or more in the last five years. Approximately half of those who had been married for less than five years had moved house three times or more (Table 4).

The average time the single soldiers had spent away from their permanent barracks was 14 weeks in the 12 months prior to interview. For most soldiers the majority of this time was spent on exercises, training courses and other duties in the United Kingdom, with approximately two thirds having spent between one and 13 weeks on such activities. In general, the young single soldiers had

Table 4 Number of postings in the last five years

	Single soldiers	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers	Young married officers
	%	%	%	%
Have never been posted	31	3	7	—
Posted once	38	16	21	*
Posted twice	18	38	26	20
Posted three times	6	13	23	30
Posted four times or more	7	29	22	50
<hr/>				
<i>Base, single soldiers who had served less than 5 years</i>	179			
<i>Married soldiers and officers who had been in the Army 5 years or more</i>		86	178	63

Table 5 Number of weeks single soldiers spent away from permanent barracks in the last 12 months

		Number of weeks					Base
		None	1-13	14-26	26+	No answer	
Tours in Northern Ireland	%	72	6	21	—	1	206
Other tours outside the UK	%	67	23	9	—	1	206
Exercises, training courses or other duties in UK	%	21	67	9	2	1	206
Total number of weeks away from permanent barracks	%	13	37	36	14	—	206

limited experience of tours in Northern Ireland and other tours outside the United Kingdom during the last 12 months (Table 5).

3.11 Details of marriage

The average length of time the young soldiers, older soldiers and officers had been married was two, ten and four years respectively. Seven out of eight of the young soldiers had been married for under four years, three quarters of the older soldiers for five years or more and seven in ten of the officers had been married for three or more years (Table 6).

Table 6 Length of time married

	Young soldiers	Older soldiers	Officers
	%	%	%
Less than 1 year	23	—	10
1 year but less than 2 years	28	15	10
2 years but less than 3 years	22	35	10
3 years but less than 4 years	15	32	10
4 years but less than 5 years	9	15	15
5 years or more	3	3	45
Base	173	180	67

At the time they married 91 per cent of both the young and older soldiers and 95 per cent of officers were in the Army; and 74 per cent, 78 per cent and 80 per cent respectively were in the Army when they met their future wives. On average, the soldiers had known their future wives for two years (the officers for five years) before getting married. Thus most wives had at least some knowledge of Army life before marriage. The age at marriage was 19-20 years for about two thirds of the wives of soldiers, but was 21 or over for 80 per cent of the officers' wives. The average age at marriage for young soldiers, older soldiers and officers was 19.4, 21.5 and 23.8 years respectively. Most (70 per cent) of the wives of the young soldiers, about two thirds of the wives of older soldiers, but only a third of the officers' wives were still living with their parents when they married.

After marriage (or since joining the Army) approximately two thirds of the young soldiers, over three quarters of the older soldiers and half the young officers and their wives had some time to wait before they were living in married quarters (Table 7). Unlike the (young and older) soldiers and their wives (of whom only 14 per cent

and 10 per cent did *not* have to wait for married quarters) 40 per cent of the officers and their wives had no waiting time. Not all the delays, however, were due to Army allocation — some involved delays on the part of the couples themselves.

Table 7 'After your marriage, how long did you have to wait before you were living in married quarters, excluding hirings?'

	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers	Young married officers
	%	%	%
Under 1 month	9	4	5
1 month-under 6 months	30	19	5
6 months-under 1 year	19	20	10
1 year-under 2 years	13	22	20
2 years-under 3 years	2	12	10
3 years or more	—	10	5
Never lived in married quarters	9	1	5
Never waited	14	10	40
Still waiting	2	—	—
Other answers	1	1	—
Base	173	180	67

3.12 Size of family

Just over a half (58 per cent) of all young soldiers and their wives had children. Of the 100 couples with children, 66 per cent had one child, 28 per cent two children and six per cent had three children. Thus the average family size was 0.9 children. Most of the children (94 per cent) were aged four or under, and 99 per cent of the couples with children had at least one child aged four or under. Of the 129 children born to the young married couples, only 19 per cent were born before the husbands joined the Army. As specified in the sampling of the older soldiers and their wives (Appendix 1), all couples had children — 20 per cent one child, 38 per cent two children, 26 per cent three children and 16 per cent had four or more children. Most of these children were aged between five and eleven and 53 per cent of the couples had at least one child aged four or under. Only eight per cent of the children were born before the husbands joined the Army.

About two thirds of all officers and their wives had children — 40 per cent had one child, 45 per cent had two children, and 15 per cent had three — an average of 1.2 children. About 65 per cent of these children were aged four or under — 85 per cent of the couples with children had at least one child aged four or under. Only five children were born before the husbands joined the Army.

4. A comparative study of Army welfare

4.1 Comparative analysis

Where possible the survey was designed to facilitate the comparison of answers to a particular question by different types of informant. Such comparisons are only possible where the same question was put to the types of informants being compared. In some tables the figures for officers and their wives have been omitted since the small base numbers would not justify percentageing the results. Where officers results have been percentageed, these are to the nearest five per cent so as to avoid any spurious impression of greater precision.

4.2 Wives' employment

Almost all the wives of soldiers and officers had been in paid employment before they were married. At the time of the interview approximately a third of the wives of both young soldiers and young officers were in paid employment. This compares with half of the wives of older soldiers. It would seem that wives tended not to take up paid employment if they had children aged four or under. A greater proportion of older soldiers' wives were in paid employment as their children were more likely to have reached school age.

However, the relatively low proportions of wives in paid employment does not appear to indicate a permanent withdrawal from the labour force. Approximately two thirds of the wives in each sampled group who were not in paid employment indicated an intention to take up paid employment in the future.

It is often suggested that the Army wife has additional difficulties to those of the wife in general in finding employment, due to her husband being in the Army. Just over a third of the wives of both young and older soldiers felt their own employment opportunities had been affected in one way or another by their husbands' being in the Army. Proportionately more wives of young officers (60 per cent) felt their employment opportunities had been affected in some way.

Wives were asked in what ways they felt their employment opportunities had been affected. The replies suggested a reluctance of employers to employ wives because they are unlikely to stay, due to Army movement and a lack of work in the area of the type wanted. In addition to these restrictions on employment, the wives of older soldiers felt the difficulties of finding someone to look after their children were particularly important. The wives of young soldiers also felt their employment oppor-

tunities had been restricted by the difficulties of finding someone to look after their children, but to a lesser extent. Civilian mothers in employment often rely on husbands or relatives to look after their children¹, a facility that is less likely to be available to Army wives.

Table 8 Ways in which wives' employment opportunities have been affected by their husbands being in the Army²

	Wives of young soldiers	Wives of older soldiers
	%	%
Employers' views:		
Employers do not want to employ wives because they are unlikely to stay due to		
Army movement	41	23
Other employers' objections	3	—
Local employment situation:		
Lack of work in the area of type wanted	25	16
Difficulties of getting employment when abroad	10	21
Other local employment difficulties	2	—
Domestic situation:		
Difficulties of finding someone to look after children	19	31
Limited to looking for a job limited to certain hours because of children	3	7
Can't take an evening job if husband is away	3	5
Other domestic difficulties	3	—
Other matters relating to movement:		
Poor career and promotion chances	8	11
Can't get a steady, long term job because of Army movement	5	13
Other movement matters	2	2
Other ways	20	2
<i>Base, wives stating their employment opportunities had been affected</i>	59	61

²The replies of young officers' wives are excluded from the table as only 39 wives replied to this question.

Although the wives of young officers had experienced similar restrictions of their employment opportunities to those of soldiers' wives, they also felt their own career and promotion prospects had particularly suffered. As the wives of young officers tend to have achieved a higher level of education and qualifications than the soldiers' wives, they may be more career orientated. Therefore they are more likely to be aware of the restrictions an Army wife faces if she intends to pursue a career of her own.

¹A Hunt, *A Survey of Women's Employment*, Vol 2, Government Social Survey, (London, HMSO 1968)

4.3 Soldiers' and officers' impressions of Army life

Just under half of the soldiers in each sampled group had one or more relative or close friend in the Services at the time of joining the Army. Thus for a substantial proportion of soldiers their expectations of Army life were probably influenced by recent first-hand accounts of service life. A smaller proportion of young married officers (30 per cent) had relatives or close friends in the Services at the time they joined the Army.

Generally the survey confirmed the findings of other recruiting investigations that men join the Army for a chance to travel and to acquire a trade or training. For the single soldiers Army life appeared to have turned out better than expected. In particular, those single soldiers who felt there were some aspects of Army life better than expected² said they had more freedom and less discipline and a greater degree of comradeship. Of the single soldiers who felt there were aspects of Army life worse than expected, most referred to the chores, the type of work and the pay. Young married soldiers who felt some aspects of Army life were better than expected mainly indicated security of employment, pay and the chance to travel. In reply to a question on those aspects of Army life considered worse than expected, young married soldiers were particularly disappointed with the level of pay. The soldiers' expectations of Army life are clearly influenced by marriage, which makes them more concerned with matters of pay and employment.

Table 9 'On the whole, would you say Army life has been better or worse than you expected?'

	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers	Young married officers
	%	%	%	%
Better than expected	59	42	63	40
Worse than expected	23	34	12	20
As expected	1	21	19	30
No answer	1	3	6	10
Base	206	165	173	65

From Table 9 it would seem that Army life for the young married men (both soldiers and officers), compared to the single and older married soldiers, was less satisfactory. In particular, over a third of the young married

²Answers are in reply to two separate questions: 'Thinking back to before you joined, is Army life in any way better (worse) than you thought it would be?' and the follow-up question 'In what ways?'

soldiers actually felt Army life was worse than they expected.

4.4 Wives' impressions of Army life

At the time of their marriage over 90 per cent of wives had their future husbands in the Army. Of these wives just over a third had at least one of their own relatives or close friends in the Services at the time of their marriage. Those wives who were married before their husbands joined the Army tended to have at least one of their own relatives or close friends in the Services at the time their husbands joined.

Although the above information would tend to suggest that future wives had considerable contact with and experience of Army life, this may be misleading. Of the young single soldiers with steady girlfriends (46 per cent), just over half were located 50 miles or more away from where their girlfriends lived. Such separation may result in future wives acquiring only limited knowledge of Army life during the courtship period. Slightly less than half of all wives in each sampled group stated they had a good idea of Army life prior to their marriage (or in some cases before their husbands joined).

On the whole, Army life had worked out better than expected for the wives of older soldiers. The wives of both young soldiers and officers felt least satisfied with the way Army life had turned out for the family. These replies show a similar pattern to those of their husbands. Thus, for a substantial proportion of young soldiers and their wives, Army life had turned out worse than they had expected.

4.5 Contact with civilians and other people in the Army

Over half of the married soldiers and officers said that most of their close friends were other service people. But this applied to only about a third of the young single soldiers. Compared to the other sampled groups a higher proportion of single soldiers had close friends among the civilian community. The relatively short service period (the average time served was 2.5 years) probably enables the single soldier to maintain greater attachment to civilians he knew before he joined the Army. Furthermore, after a period of separation the married soldier or officer is likely to spend most of his time with his family, restricting his contact with the civilian community.

Table 10 'On the whole, has life for the family in the Army turned out better or worse than expected?'

	Wives of young soldiers	Wives of older soldiers	Wives of young officers
	%	%	%
Better than expected	35	59	35
Worse than expected	34	14	25
As expected	22	12	20
Don't know	9	15	20
Base	162	172	66

The majority of wives in each sampled group said that most of their close friends were other service people. However, a substantial proportion of wives also indicated that most of their close friends came from the civilian community. In particular, 30 per cent of the wives of young soldiers and 40 per cent of the wives of young officers said that most of their close friends came from the civilian community. A smaller proportion (17 per cent) of wives of older soldiers had such friendships, which may reflect their greater assimilation into Army life.

Slightly less than half of the young single soldiers and older married soldiers felt that being in the Army prevented them from making close friendships with civilians. This compares with 58 per cent of young married soldiers and 80 per cent of young married officers saying that being in the Army prevented them from making close friendships with civilians. Under half of the wives of older soldiers, compared with 54 per cent and 65 per cent of the wives of both young soldiers and young officers respectively, felt such friendships were prevented. Generally, the geographical isolation of the Army camp, regular movement and the image of the Army held by civilians (eg Colonel Blimp, 'soldiers are thick', lack of prestige, etc) were the main factors felt to prevent close friendships with civilians.

All the sampled groups were asked whether or not they had experienced any hostile attitude or resentment from the civilian community in this country which they felt was due to their being in the Army. The question covered only the last three years in the Army or the whole time in the Army if their service was less than three years. Just under half of the young single soldiers and young married soldiers and their wives had experienced hostility or resentment. A lower proportion of older married soldiers/wives (38 per cent) and young married officers/

wives (25 per cent) had experienced hostility. This possibly reflects a greater acceptance of the higher ranks of the Army by the civilian community.

The main source of 'hostility' centred around the service received in pubs, clubs and local shops. Other frequently mentioned sources of 'hostility' concerned the employment of wives and a general feeling of hostility from local people and strangers (Table 11).

The causes of many of the reported sources of hostility are difficult to establish. Certainly at least some of the incidents are experienced by civilians as well as by soldiers and their wives. In particular, there is evidence that other uniformed occupations³ and young people⁴ experience similar hostility. Generally the survey indicated that hostility stemmed from an overall image of the Army as a low status occupation. Furthermore, aspects of the Army such as the uniform and short hair make the soldier easily identifiable.

4.6 Contact with parents

Except when they were posted abroad, there appeared to be fairly regular contact between soldiers (and officers) and their parents. This was less often the case with older married soldiers (Table 12).

Between a third and a half of the single soldiers, and of the other husbands and wives, who had been posted or moved in the Army, felt that this made it difficult for them to see their parents as much as they would have liked. Similar proportions felt that moving around with the

³ *Royal Commission on the Police*, HMSO (London, 1962), p 104-5 and W Belson, *The Public and the Police*, Harper and Row (London, 1975).

⁴ E M and M Eppel, *Adolescents and Morality*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, (London, 1966) Chapter 3.

Table 11 Kind of hostile attitude or resentment experienced from the civilian community in this country†

	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers wives	Older married soldiers wives
	%	%	%
Hostility or resentment:			
Service in pubs, clubs and cafes	62	62	43
Local people and strangers generally	41	32	13
Pubs, clubs, shops, banks, etc but not directly concerned with service	12	7	4
Service in local shops	5	38	43
Service in other establishments (eg banks, doctors, libraries) not mentioned above	7	16	13
Neighbours and friends	1	5	13
Wife getting employment	—	21	10
Between own children and civilian children in neighbourhood	—	5‡	12
Between own children and civilian children at school	—	4‡	6
Other answers	2	2	9
No answer	6	—	—
<i>Base, all who had experienced hostile attitudes or resentment from the civilian community in this country</i>	100	81	68

†The replies of young officers and their wives are excluded from the table as only 18 replied to this question

‡The incidence of 'hostility' concerning the children of young soldiers and their wives is likely to be underestimated, since the base includes families without children

Table 12 'Except when you are posted abroad, how often do you see your parents?'

	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers		Older married soldiers		Young officers	
		Wives	Husbands	Wives	Husbands	Wives	Husbands
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
At least once a month	46	35	23	22	13	30	20
At least once every 6 months	45	47	47	41	47	55	65
Less than once every 6 months	8	16	26	36	35	15	15
Other frequencies of visiting	1	2	4	1	4	*	—
<i>Base, all with at least one parent alive or a parent substitute</i>							
	204	160	164	165	159	66	65

Army made it difficult to help their parents, if they needed help, as much as they would have liked. Of those who felt there were such difficulties, between a half and two thirds of single and young married soldiers and their wives, compared with just over a third of older married soldiers and their wives thought the Army could help in the situation. Most of the suggestions about how the Army could help concerned making it easier to obtain compassionate leave, travel or warrants. Examples of the suggestions were:

'If you are abroad you should be able to get a posting back home near to your parents when they have any sort of trouble. When they are over their troubles you could then return to your original posting. It would help if you could have a temporary posting nearer to your parents when they need your help.' (Private)

'They could give us an allowance like travel expenses to your family's home or provide transport for you, or give you more travel warrants so you could afford to go to see your parents. We can't afford the train fares to the other end of the country from wherever the Army have sent you, not on soldiers' pay.' (Wife of Private)

'In Germany and places to hand parents can get over easily, but in Hong Kong and Singapore the Army could lay on cheaper flights, like a charter flight. The cheapest flight to Singapore was £300 when we left, which is a hell of a lot of money, especially for an ordinary working-class family.' (Wife of Sergeant)

Only two to four per cent of the married soldiers and officers had one or more parents financially dependent on them, but this applied to six per cent of the young single soldiers.

4.7 Contact with girlfriends

Nearly half (46 per cent) of the single soldiers interviewed had a fiancée or steady girlfriend. More than two thirds of these soldiers started going out with their girlfriends or fiancées after they had joined the Army. Just over a quarter of the soldiers were stationed under 10 miles away from where their steady girlfriends lived, with 39 per cent over a hundred miles away. Apart from the obvious strains such separation is likely to have on the couple's relationship, it also restricts the girlfriend's contact with the Army — she consequently acquires little knowledge of Army life during courtship.

Just over half of the 95 soldiers with steady girlfriends said they were thinking of getting married in the near future, while serving in the Army. As many as 88 per cent thought their future wives had a good idea of what it would be like to be married to a soldier. The main advantage of Army life referred to was the help given in finding accommodation. In particular, soldiers said their future wives knew of the advantages of acquiring accommodation without a mortgage, and the provision of married quarters. Other advantages mentioned were the welfare facilities, security of employment and pay, as well as the opportunity to travel.

The main disadvantage of Army life the single soldier thought his future wife knew about was the amount of separation. Having no home, the dangers of being in the Army and the difficulties in making plans because of the uncertainty of leave were other disadvantages mentioned by a few soldiers.

It should be noted that the above information was obtained by asking the single soldiers about their girlfriends, and no questions were specifically answered by the girlfriends. Thus there may be a substantial discrepancy between the soldiers' assessment of his future wife's knowledge of the Army and her actual knowledge.

4.8 Attitudes to mobility

Over 90 per cent of the older married soldiers and officers had been in the Army for five years or more compared with half of the young married soldiers. Of those married men who had been in the Army for at least five years, over 40 per cent had been posted three times or more in the last five years. The young married officers had a particularly high level of postings in the last five years with 80 per cent having been posted three times or more since joining. For three quarters of the young married officers and older married soldiers such postings had involved them in moving house three times or more in the last five years. This compared with approximately a third of the young married soldiers.

Compared to a sample of the general population, the soldiers and officers had experienced a higher proportion of household moves. According to the General House-



hold Survey⁵, only 15 per cent of the population who had accommodation rented with their job or business had moved house three times or more in the past five years. For all types of tenure the figure was even lower, with only five per cent having moved three times or more in the past five years.

Since most Army families are likely to experience considerable movement, it is important to assess how they feel about moving frequently. All the families in the survey were asked what advantages and disadvantages there were in moving frequently.⁶ Approximately half of all the wives felt there were advantages as did slightly over half of the young married officers and older married soldiers. Only 37 per cent of the young married soldiers felt there were advantages to moving frequently. The main advantages were considered to be the opportunities for travel and making new friends. Travel was felt to be of particular importance, with 70 per cent or more (husbands and wives) regarding it as an advantage.

Over 80 per cent of all the sampled groups said there were disadvantages to moving frequently. All of the groups felt the main disadvantage was that such movement upset the children. In particular, approximately 60 per cent of both the older soldiers and their wives felt this to be a disadvantage. The amount of inconvenience and disruption to the home and social life were other frequently mentioned disadvantages. The young married soldiers and the older married soldiers were also concerned about the cost of frequent movement.

Although frequent movement is a major part of Army life, it was generally considered to involve greater disadvantages than advantages. In response to a question on the overall advantages or disadvantages of moving approximately three quarters of all the sampled groups felt there were greater disadvantages (Table 13).

4.9 Amount of separation

Almost all of the wives of married soldiers and officers had been separated for service reasons from their husbands since they were married. On average the young soldiers had been away from their wives for 15 weeks in

the last 12 months (Table 14) and for a third of them this period was spent on unaccompanied tours. Within the first year of marriage these couples had been separated for an average of 20 weeks. During the last period of separation for more than a month, 63% of the wives went to stay with parents, relatives or friends for part or the whole of the period while 51 per cent stayed alone in their own accommodation.

The older married soldiers had been separated from their wives for an average of 10 weeks during the last 12 months (Table 14). During the first year of marriage these couples had been separated for 18 weeks on average. When the wives were last separated for more than a month, 77 per cent stayed alone in their own accommodation while 18 per cent had parents, relatives or friends to stay with them.

On average officers had been away from their wives for 12 weeks in the last 12 months (Table 14). Within the first year of marriage these couples had on average been separated for 14 weeks. During the last period of separation that lasted for over a month, 85 per cent of the wives stayed alone in their own accommodation.

The last time husbands had been away for more than a month, 17 per cent of the young soldiers' wives and five per cent of the older soldiers' wives took up employment — 22 per cent of each group were already in employment. Only three officers' wives took up employment (22 were already employed). Just six wives of the young soldiers, two wives of the older soldiers and one officer's wife continued the job when their husbands returned.

4.10 The problems of separation

Generally couples had been separated for nearly four months in the last 12 months. For most married men the majority of this period had been spent on unaccompanied tours. Furthermore, the young soldiers and their wives (who were in the Army in their first year of marriage) had on average been separated for 20 weeks during their first year of marriage. Other couples had experienced slightly less separation during their first year of marriage.

Periods of separation give rise to major changes in the lives of Army wives. Only a very small percentage of all wives had not experienced changes in their lives when their husbands were away. The wives of older soldiers experienced similar changes in their lives to those of other Army wives, which suggests that periods of separation do

⁵The General Household Survey 1972, HMSO (London, 1975), p 87, Table 2.43, Tenure by number of moves by head of household in past five years.

⁶Answers are in reply to two separate questions: 'Are there any advantages (disadvantages) in moving frequently?' and the follow-up questions 'What are the advantages (disadvantages)?'

Table 13 'On the whole, would you say there are greater advantages or greater disadvantages to moving?'

	Young soldiers		Older soldiers		Young officers	
	Husbands Wives		Husbands Wives		Husbands Wives	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Greater disadvantages	75	73	70	71	70	75
Greater advantages	20	23	28	27	25	20
Other answers	5	4	2	2	5	5
<i>Base, all who had moved with the Army</i>						
	101	100	158	156	57	58

Table 14 Number of weeks spent away from wives in the last 12 months

	Number of weeks					Base
	None	1-13	14-26	26 + over	No answer	
Young married soldiers						
Living in barracks, mess because wife chose to stay at home	% 93	2	4	—	1	164
Courses	% 86	12	1	—	1	164
Training	% 85	12	2	—	1	164
Living in barracks, mess because no married quarters available						
Exercises	% 78	16	4	1	1	164
Unaccompanied tours	% 61	34	4	—	1	164
Other weeks	% 46	17	34	2	1	164
Total number of weeks away from wives	% 87	12	—	—	1	164
	% 7	37	36	19	1	164
Older married soldiers						
Living in barracks, mess because wife chose to stay at home	% 94	2	3	1	—	174
Training	% 94	5	1	—	—	174
Living in barracks, mess because no married quarters available						
Courses	% 90	9	1	—	—	174
Exercises	% 85	15	—	—	—	174
Unaccompanied tours	% 78	22	—	—	—	174
Other weeks	% 63	14	21	2	—	174
Total number of weeks away from wives	% 89	11	—	—	—	174
	% 29	42	16	13	—	174
Young married officers						
Living in barracks, mess because wife chose to stay at home	% 95	5	—	—	—	62
Living in barracks, mess because no married quarters available						
Exercises	% 95	5	—	—	—	62
Training	% 95	5	*	—	—	62
Unaccompanied tours	% 70	30	*	—	—	62
Other weeks	% 60	40	*	—	—	62
Total number of weeks away from wives	% 60	20	15	5	—	62
	% 85	15	*	—	—	62
	% 25	40	30	5	—	62

Table 15 'How is your life changed when your husband is away?'

	Wives of young soldiers	Wives of older soldiers	Wives of young officers
	%	%	%
Feel isolated, lonely	68	55	60
Restricted social life	40	30	30
Illness, depression and irritability	26	12	15
Need more help and contact with others	25	9	15
Frightened of intruders	21	16	15
Difficulties with children	17	33	25
Neglect oneself and the household	17	7	20
Worry over husband	16	9	5
Added responsibility	9	13	30
Practical difficulties of husband's absence	3	10	25
More freedom, independence	2	6	15
Emotional difficulties in re-uniting	2	1	5
Other changes	23	19	25
Not changed	3	12	5
<i>Base, wives who had experienced over one month's separation</i>			
	124	161	53

not become any more acceptable with greater experience. The main ways in which the wives of all the sampled groups felt their lives changed during periods of separation were that they felt isolated and lonely and that their social life was restricted. In addition to these changes, a third of older soldiers' wives had difficulties with their children. The wives of young officers also felt the added

responsibility and the practical difficulties (eg household jobs, not being able to drive) of their husband's absence were important changes in their lives (Table 15).

Of those wives with children, approximately two thirds said that their children's lives were changed when husbands were away. In general, wives felt their children

tended to miss their fathers and in some cases this led to difficulties in relating to him on his return. Nearly 50 per cent of the wives of older soldiers felt their children missed their fathers, compared with 29 per cent of the wives of young soldiers who had children. Wives generally felt the very young children were less likely to miss their fathers. This may account for the lower proportion of young soldier's wives, who were more likely to have young children, feeling their children missed their fathers. Children also became unsettled and insecure as well as difficult to control.⁷

The main difficulties of separation for wives were boredom, loneliness, sleeplessness and nervousness. Compared to other Army wives, the wives of young soldiers were particularly likely to have difficulties: nearly three quarters said boredom was a difficulty of separation. Loneliness appeared to be a difficulty that affected many of the wives of young men (both soldiers and officers) but fewer of the wives of older soldiers. Although some of the older soldiers' wives were probably more adjusted to these periods of separation, nearly half still felt loneliness was a difficulty when their husbands were away (Table 16).

Of those wives who had one or more difficulties during the last period of separation, 50 per cent or more had *not* sought any form of help. Wives were less likely to seek help about the main difficulties of separation such as boredom, loneliness, sleeplessness and nervousness. Only a quarter or less of the wives with boredom and other main difficulties sought help. The few wives who sought help mainly relied on civilian and Army doctors. In general the assistance given by the doctors was felt to be helpful.

4.11 The problems of reunion

For many couples, settling down together after a period of separation may be just as difficult as the separation. Couples who had been separated for one month or more were asked about the difficulties of settling down to-

gether after a period of separation. There were indications that, because the husband and wife were interviewed together, they may have felt restricted in talking about any difficulties that may have existed.

The difficulties of settling down were particularly felt by the young couples (both soldiers and officers); over 40 per cent said they had difficulties compared with a third of the older soldiers and their wives. Difficulties mainly included the change of routine, feeling strangers to each other, and the tendency to get on each other's nerves. In particular, 45 per cent of the wives of young soldiers who felt they had difficulties in settling down mentioned feeling strangers to each other. Approximately a quarter of the older soldiers and their wives had difficulties with their children after a period of separation. Children were mainly felt to be jealous of or did not recognise their fathers, and had become unaccustomed to being disciplined by their fathers.

4.12 Pregnancy

In order to make some assessment of recent separation and pregnancy, a few questions were asked of wives with children aged four or under, particularly about their first pregnancy. The first question was restricted to wives who had an *eldest* child aged four or under born to the marriage since their husbands joined the Army. This limitation was imposed to reduce the difficulties of memory.

40 per cent of the wives of young married soldiers had been separated for 20 weeks or more during their first pregnancy, and 32 per cent of the wives of older soldiers had been separated for 10 weeks or more. The average period of separation during pregnancy for the wives of young and older soldiers and officers was 16, 8 and 11 weeks respectively.

At the time of their last or only birth 69 per cent of the young soldiers' wives, 90 per cent of the older soldiers' wives and 83 per cent of the officers' wives had their husbands readily available.

Of the wives who had more than one child, from 35 to 65 per cent had their husbands looking after their other

⁷According to the Army Welfare Committee's Report Chapter VI school teachers emphasised these difficulties with children when discussing school behaviour and truancy.

Table 16 'When your husband was away last time did you have any of the following difficulties . . .'

	Wives of young soldiers	Wives of older soldiers	Wives of young officers
	%	%	%
Boredom	71	44	40
Loneliness	69	48	65
Sleeplessness	57	40	35
Nervousness	50	40	30
Being tied to home	29	30	20
Behaviour of children	22	39	20
Illness of children	19	24	10
Financial matters	15	6	*
Own health	4	2	—
Other difficulties	9	7	10
No difficulties	7	15	15
<i>Base, wives who had experienced over one month's separation</i>	124	161	53

child(ren) at the time of their most recent birth. It seems that the wives of older soldiers are less likely than the wives of young soldiers to be separated from their husbands during pregnancy and child birth.

4.13 Children and education

The effects of Army movement on children's development and education are of particular concern in this study. Less than a quarter, of the soldiers' wives and almost two fifths of the officers' wives had children aged between two and four years. Under a third of the young soldiers' wives, just over a half of the older soldiers' wives and approximately two thirds of the officers' wives sent one or more of these children to nurseries or playgroups — the others were considered too young.

A series of questions was asked about children aged five or over. Only five young soldiers and 14 officers had such children and these numbers are too small to justify further analysis. However, about three quarters of the older soldiers had children five years or over. The eldest children had, on average, attended four schools (excluding nursery schools) — nearly half had attended four or more schools. Over half these couples said that their children had changed schools in mid-term.

On the whole, 42 per cent of wives and 36 per cent of husbands whose eldest child had attended more than one school felt that the effects of changing schools had done some damage to their children's education (Table 17).

Table 17 Effects of changing schools on children's education

	Wives	Husbands
	%	%
Considerable benefit	5	4
Some benefit	12	7
Made no difference	27	27
Some damage	42	36
Considerable damage	14	23
No answer	1	4

Base, all couples whose eldest child was aged five or over and had attended more than one school

101 101

Of the couples with children aged five or over, 67 per cent had visited their children's school three or more times during the last full term. On average parents had visited the schools three times in the last full term. Of those who

had visited the schools once or more 92 per cent felt they were made to feel welcome. Only seven couples were made to feel unwelcome.

On the whole 69 per cent of couples were satisfied with their children's progress at school — 27 per cent said they were not satisfied and 39 per cent said they had difficulties concerning their children's general education as a result of their husbands being in the Army. Of the 53 couples who had difficulties, 74 per cent said the difficulties concerned progress at school, 32 per cent the child's behaviour at school and 24 per cent mentioned other difficulties.

4.14 Present accommodation

Four fifths of the young soldiers, three quarters of the older soldiers and half the officers and their wives were living in Army quarters in a garrison or regimental area. The remaining couples lived in a mixture of accommodation such as hirings, rented property and their own house (Table 18).

Over three quarters of all the soldiers and officers (and their wives) had been living in the particular area for six months or more. In general, the facilities available in the area such as shops, telephones, doctors and public transport were thought by most wives to be within easy reach. Nurseries and schools were also within easy reach of the majority of children.

4.15 Problems in general

All the sampled groups were asked about the kind of problems they had experienced in the last 12 months. The most frequently mentioned problem by wives was loneliness, with 60 per cent of the young soldiers' wives saying it was a problem. Other problems concerned accommodation, parents, money and their own health. In general, the wives of both young officers and older soldiers were less likely to experience problems than the wives of young soldiers. Over three quarters of the young soldiers' wives reported that they had problems over the last 12 months compared with approximately half of the wives of older soldiers (Table 19).

Generally, the married soldiers and officers had experienced a smaller proportion of problems in the last 12 months than had their wives. The main problems they had

Table 18 Present accommodation of soldiers, officers and their wives

	Young soldiers and their wives	Older soldiers and their wives	Officers and their wives
	%	%	%
Army quarters in a garrison or regimental area	80	75	50
Army hiring	6	3	5
Army quarters in a civilian area	4	11	5
Relatives' houses	4	1	—
Privately rented house or flat	2	1	—
Own house	2	9	35
Other accommodation	2	1	*
Base	173	180	67

Table 19 'In the last 12 months have you had any problems regarding any of the following . . .'

	Wives of young soldiers	Wives of older soldiers	Wives of young officers
	%	%	%
Loneliness	60	26	35
Accommodation	20	13	25
Parents	19	6	20
Money	15	6	10
Own health	13	16	25
Other problems	11	6	10
No problems	21	55	40
<i>Base</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>172</i>	<i>66</i>

Table 20 'In the last 12 months have you had any problems regarding any of the following . . .'

	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers	Young married officers
	%	%	%	%
Parents	19	16	7	15
Girlfriends	18	—	—	—
Loneliness	17	25	5	10
Money	16	27	13	35
Accommodation	15	28	17	40
Own health	15	14	10	10
Wives' health or nerves	—	5	—	—
Injustice of Army	—	2	1	—
Boredom	—	2	1	—
Uncertainty as to next posting	—	1	2	—
Other problems	10	8	8	15
No problems	41	36	57	30
<i>Base</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>65</i>

experienced concerned money and accommodation. Loneliness was also a problem for a quarter of the young married soldiers. As was found with their wives, less than half of the older soldiers had experienced any problems in the last 12 months. Furthermore, the young single soldiers were less likely to have problems than were the young married soldiers and officers (Table 20).

Of those wives with one or more problems, approximately half of the soldiers' wives and a quarter of the officers' wives had *not* sought help. Only a third of each sampled group of soldiers and officers had *not* sought help. Just over half of the soldiers and wives who had accommodation problems had sought help. Three quarters of the young married officers had sought help over accommodation, compared with a quarter of their wives. Most of those reporting loneliness problems had not sought any kind of help. This may be because a symptom of loneliness is a feeling of not having anyone to turn to. In contrast, almost all with health problems had sought help. The main sources of help for all groups were the Housing Commandant and doctors (both Army and civilian). Soldiers and officers also relied on other officers for help over their problems. With the exception of accommodation, the assistance given was in general felt to be helpful.

4.16 Dealing with problems

Approximately half of the couples who had experienced over one month's separation said that the regiment or

corps did enough for families while husbands were away. Those couples who felt the regiment did not do enough or did not know whether they did enough felt the regiment could organise social functions and trips for wives as well as paying home visits. Over a third of all couples felt civilian organisations did enough to help Army families. However, at least a third of all the couples appeared to be unaware of the civilian facilities available to them. The remaining couples who felt civilian organisations did not do enough to help Army families suggested a number of possible improvements in civilian help. The main suggestions concerned improvements in the integration or liaison with the Army service and a general increase in the interest civilian organisations, doctors and dentists take in Army problems.

Over 80 per cent of the single and married soldiers said that there was someone on the camp they felt they could turn to if they had any difficulties with regard to money, girlfriends, family problems or other problems. A similarly high proportion (70 per cent) of young married officers also felt there was someone on the camp who could deal with their problems. However, wives appeared to feel this was less true for them, with 55 per cent or fewer saying there was someone on the camp they could go to with their problems.

Soldiers' wives would mainly rely on the Families Officer as a source of advice on any problems. With the exception of the Families Officer, few wives would turn to other Army personnel for advice. Although the wives of offi-

cers have often been called upon to deal with welfare problems in the Army, less than 15 per cent of soldier's wives said they would seek help from officers' wives. The young officers' wives would mainly rely on other wives if they had any difficulties. The main alternative source of advice was parents and (to some extent) friends.

The main source of help on the camp for soldiers was felt to be other officers, although the Commanding Officer or the Warrant Officer/NCO were also frequently mentioned sources of help. Two thirds of the young married officers said they would seek help from the Commanding Officer if they had any problems.

4.17 Officers and the welfare of soldiers

Of the officers interviewed, 60 per cent had responsibility for at least some soldiers. Most officers who were responsible for soldiers felt that their soldiers' problems were brought to their notice, mainly by direct contact with the soldiers or through the grapevine. Those officers responsible for soldiers felt most wives of soldiers would go to the doctor, Medical Officer or other wives with their welfare problems.

Only nine wives were actively involved in the welfare of soldiers' families. This is too small a number to justify any further analysis. The main reasons given by wives for not being actively involved in welfare were that either they had no wish to get involved, or that no welfare problems had been brought to their attention.

Of the 41 officers who had responsibility for soldiers, 39 were actively involved in the welfare problems of soldiers'. Most of these officers said that they felt fairly competent in dealing with the soldiers' welfare problems. The main way in which officers felt they were lacking in competence was that they had not had adequate training to deal with welfare problems. If the officers needed assistance in dealing with a soldier's welfare problems there was generally no one person they would go to for advice.

Half the officers responsible for soldiers felt they had enough time to devote to welfare problems. Approximately a third had received some form of training for dealing with welfare problems. A third of those officers who had not received training would like some form of training and a third of those who had received training would like additional training.

Over three quarters of the young officers and their wives felt there should be a particular person on the camp to whom soldiers and their wives could go if they had a personal problem. The main preferences of wives were for a person professionally qualified in social work and someone in civilian dress. Husbands had particular preferences for the person to be professionally qualified in social work, a military person and someone in civilian dress.

The overall picture was that 45 per cent of young officers and their wives felt the Army provided about the right

welfare provisions for soldiers and their families. Of the remaining, 25 per cent said there was too little welfare, five per cent too much, 15 per cent did not know whether there was too much or too little welfare and ten per cent gave other answers.

Although some aspects of the present Army welfare facilities were felt to be satisfactory, particularly by soldiers, there was also a feeling that facilities were in need of improvement. Approximately three quarters of both soldiers and soldiers' wives felt there should be a particular person on the camp to whom they could go if they had a personal problem (Table 21-22). Slightly fewer officers (55 per cent) and their wives (60 per cent) felt there was a need for such a person on the camp. All sampled groups were subsequently asked a series of questions on the type of characteristics this person should have. Over three quarters of each sampled group said the person should be professionally qualified in social work. Other preferences were for someone in civilian dress and that the person should be based with the regiment. With the exception of the single soldiers, all other groups indicated a slight preference for a military person.

4.18 Improvements in Army welfare

A final question was asked of single and married soldiers and their wives: 'What, if anything, could the Army do to improve their welfare?'. A more general question was put to the officers and their wives: 'Is there anything else you would like to say about welfare problems in the Army?'.

Although the individual answers were very varied, a closer analysis showed that, to the young soldiers, both single and married, more money was considered the most important improvement. About a fifth of the single soldiers and a quarter of the young married soldiers mentioned an increase in the pay, allowances, etc. The young single soldiers would also have liked more privacy. The need for separate rooms or a reduction in the number of soldiers per room was of particular concern to this group. Single soldiers also felt an increase in the entertainments for example night clubs, discos, cinemas, available to them would improve their welfare. The wives of young soldiers most frequently said improving the standard of their accommodation would contribute to their well-being, and less separation from their husbands was suggested by one in five. Army quarters were also criticised by a third of the older soldiers and their wives, and nearly a quarter of this group would have liked help with buying a house when they were leaving the service. Other suggestions concerned the need for more welfare and social facilities for families.

The answers provided by the officers and their wives to the wider question about general welfare problems in the Army were slightly different. They laid greater emphasis on the need for improving medical services (which were thought to be inadequate and old-fashioned), accommodation (for example to improve the standard and provide more quarters) and they more often believed that welfare problems should be dealt with by a professional/qualified person.

Table 21 'Do you think there should be a particular person on the camp to whom you could go if you had a personal problem? Should this person be...'

	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers
	%	%	%
A civilian	46	35	36
A military person	31	46	52
Either a civilian or military person. Don't know	20	17	10
Both a civilian and a military person, one of each	3	2	2
Based at the garrison	27	28	29
Based with the regiment	64	64	58
Either based at garrison or with regiment. Don't know	7	7	6
No answer	2	1	1
Someone in uniform	11	20	29
Someone in civilian dress	65	58	43
Either someone in uniform or civilian dress. Don't know	22	22	28
No answer	2	—	—
A man	29	42	46
A woman	19	11	15
Either a man or a woman. Don't know	47	31	32
Both a man and a woman, one of each	5	16	7
Professionally qualified in social work	82	78	82
Not professionally qualified in social work	5	8	10
Either professionally qualified in social work or not. Don't know	13	14	8
An officer or equivalent	32	45	56
Not an officer or equivalent	39	28	15
Either an officer or equivalent or not. Don't know	29	27	29
<i>Base, all stating there should be a particular person on the camp to whom they could go with personal problems</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>119</i>

The replies of young officers are excluded from the table as only 36 replied to this question

Table 22 'Do you think there should be a particular person on the camp to whom you could go if you had a personal problem? Should this person be...'

	Wives of young married soldiers	Wives of older married soldiers
	%	%
A civilian	40	28
A military person	45	53
Either a civilian or military person. Don't know	15	18
Both a civilian and a military person, one of each	—	—
Based at the garrison	38	35
Based with the regiment	46	52
Either based at garrison or with regiment. Don't know	15	12
No answer	—	1
Someone in uniform	12	23
Someone in civilian dress	65	48
Either someone in uniform or civilian dress. Don't know	23	28
A man	17	33
A woman	41	32
Either a man or a woman. Don't know	30	29
Both a man and a woman, one of each	12	5
Professionally qualified in social work	80	79
Not professionally qualified in social work	6	8
Either professionally qualified in social work or not. Don't know	14	12
An officer or equivalent	31	35
Not an officer or equivalent	38	23
Either an officer or equivalent or not. Don't know	31	42
<i>Base, all stating there should be a particular person on the camp to whom they could go with personal problems</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>130</i>

The replies of young officers' wives are excluded from the table as only 40 wives replied to this question

Appendix 1

Sampling report

1 Sample coverage

The Army Welfare Inquiry Committee was interested in the views and experiences of a number of different groups of British Army personnel. Ideally the committee would have liked sub-samples to be drawn from each of these groups, but the resources available to carry out the survey were limited. The maximum number of interviews which could be conducted and analysed was about 500 and since at least 150 interviews per group were required in order to carry out the analysis envisaged at that time, the survey was initially restricted to three groups of particular interest: young single soldiers, young married soldiers, and older married soldiers. It was later decided to supplement the information obtained with that from a small sample of young officers. Analysis would be carried out separately within each group, so it was not necessary for the samples from the four groups to be directly additive.

Interviews were carried out with the selected young single soldiers themselves, and, where this was possible in the remaining groups with the selected men and their wives. The survey was restricted to men stationed in garrisons in Great Britain at any time during the period 4 June — 11 July 1975. Married men who were away for the whole of this period on four month unaccompanied tours in Northern Ireland were not excluded however since their wives were approached for interviews.

2 Populations required

The four groups of men to be included in the survey were defined as:

- sample (a) Single lance-corporals and below, aged less than 25 on 1 June 1975 but excluding junior soldiers
- sample (b) Married lance-corporals and below, aged less than 25 on 1 June 1975 but excluding junior soldiers
- sample (c) Married soldiers with at least one child aged below 18, and with a total of 8 to 22 years service on 1 June 1975
- sample (d) Married Officers aged 22 to 32 on 1 June 1975

3 Sample design

When the sample was designed, Army personnel were based at 154 Stations/garrisons throughout Great Britain. As a random sample of all eligible personnel, irrespective of their location would have been widely scattered and wasteful of resources, it was essential to cluster the interviews. One proposal was that in order to minimise the number of garrison and unit contacts to

be made, as well as clustering the interviews, the sample should be limited to eligible men stationed in the four major garrisons. This was rejected on the grounds that the experience and opinions of men and their wives in the major garrisons might be different from those of people in other garrisons (particularly with respect to the provision of welfare facilities).

The 154 stations ranged in size from Army recruitment offices with a couple of men to major garrisons containing several thousand, Table 1.

Table 1 Distribution of garrisons by size September 1974

Size of garrison†	Total number	Number excluded from clustering
Under 10	35	35
10 — 19	11	5
20 — 49	17	4
50 — 99	13	1
100 — 199	16	—
200 — 499	18	1
500 — 999	21	—
1000 — 1499	8	—
1500 — 1999	2	—
2000 — 2499	5	—
2500 — 2999	3	—
3000 and over	5	—
	154	46

†officers and soldiers including trainees, supernumeraries and juniors

Thus, drawing an initial random sample of garrisons and a systematic random sample of men within selected garrisons would have resulted in a large variation of interview quota sizes. Yet it was inappropriate to sample garrisons with probability proportional to 'size', in an attempt to even out quota sizes, since:

- (1) the latest measures of 'size' were the total numbers of soldiers and officers in the garrisons in September 1974 and these numbers could have changed significantly by June 1975,
- (2) data were not available for eligible men by garrison, and the proportion of young soldiers was expected to vary greatly by garrison.

It was, therefore decided to cluster garrisons and then select a sample of these clusters. The garrisons were grouped geographically and where possible, so that each cluster contained different types and sizes of garrison. Eleven garrisons were excluded from the grouping because of their relative isolation. All the 35 garrisons which contained fewer than ten officers and soldiers were also excluded because of the disproportionate amount of resources needed to include them. The 46 excluded garrisons contained 0.8 per cent of the

male officers and soldiers stationed in Great Britain in September 1974. Twenty four clusters were formed and a random sample of five of them, comprising 18 garrisons, was drawn (See Table 2 which gives the size of each garrison group).

Table 2 Garrison groups by sample type

Group	Number of soldiers	Number of officers	Number of trainee soldiers†	Number of trainee officers
1	7,646	1,136	2,069	386
2	1,613	127	—	—
3	4,971	424	937	8
4	577	164	186	9
5	5,306	421	96	—
Total	20,113	2,272	3,288	403

†excluding junior soldiers.

4 Sample size

The aim was to achieve 150 interviews for each of the soldier groups (samples a, b, and c). It was anticipated that refusals would be few but prediction of other losses through ineligibility and non-contact was difficult. A small pilot survey indicated considerable variability in the frequency and duration of absence of units from the garrisons at which they were stationed.

To allow for non-response it was decided to select set samples of the sizes shown below for issue to interviewers:

- (a) 250 young single soldiers
- (b) 200 young married soldiers
- (c) 200 older married soldiers
- (d) 70 young officers

The set sample size was smaller for samples b and c than for sample a since the response rate was likely to be comparatively high among married personnel, because the wife could be interviewed in the man's absence.

5 Sampling frames

Two possible sampling frames were investigated:

- (1) records held by individual units
- (2) centralised Army personnel computer records

Both lists had disadvantages as sampling frames. The use of units records was rejected because:

- (a) it entailed contacting and visiting every unit (about 180) in the selected garrisons.
- (b) the sampling procedure would have been fairly complex and due to the size of the exercise, it would have been carried out by interviewers who are not necessarily skilled in sampling.
- (c) determining eligibility for the survey required detailed information which would not always be available in the units' records.

The computer records, on the other hand, contained sufficient information to determine eligibility but inevitable delays occurred in monitoring and programming changes to the records. A second disadvantage

was the lack of home addresses and the present location of the men.

6 Postal survey

As the Army Welfare Inquiry Committee was to conduct a postal survey in early 1975 using a sample of Army personnel stationed in UK and BAOR, it was proposed that in order to simplify the sampling procedure for the computer department, the interview sample could be taken from the postal sample. It was suggested that this would also enable comparisons to be made between data collected on the two surveys, but this would not have been possible except on an aggregate basis, as the postal schedules were not serially numbered. In the postal sample the relevant population was divided into 24 cells and a different sampling fraction used in each cell (these ranged from 1/1 to 1/28). If a sub-sample of the postal sample had to be drawn for the interview survey, the results would not have been additive without reweighting, unless different proportions were sampled from each cell to correct for unequal probabilities of selection. Reweighting the results would have reduced the effective sample size and sub-sampling would not have yielded sufficient interviews in the selected garrisons. An independent sample was therefore drawn for the interview survey.

7 Sampling procedure

7.1 Sample from Computer Records

The first stage of sampling was listing all units which were expected to be stationed in the selected garrisons at some time during 4 June — 11 July (the field period). When the field period began this list was checked and it was found that one unit had moved out of the garrisons and one unit had been disbanded. Men from these units were excluded — see Table 5. No extra units had moved into the garrisons. If any extra units had moved in then a supplementary sample would have been drawn from their records.

In March 1975 systematic random samples were drawn from the computer records on men who fulfilled the eligibility criteria for each of the four samples and who were currently serving in one of the units on our list. Sampling intervals and the resulting sample sizes are given in Table 3.

Table 3 Sampling intervals and sizes by each sample type

	Young single	Young married	Older married	Young officers
Sampling intervals	1/10	1/4	1/10	1/3
Sample size (from computer records)	572	430	476	157
Initial sample size	500	400	400	140

7.2 Updating the sample information

It was planned to update the information about selected men before the field period in order to minimise the number of interviewer contacts with men who subsequently turned out to be ineligible, and

to reduce the number of non-contacts. It was decided to draw initial samples of double the set sample sizes i.e. 500 young single soldiers, 400 young married soldiers, 400 'older' married soldiers and 140 officers. Up-to-date information was then obtained about these 'double' samples as described below. At this stage a systematic random rejection was made of the surplus 72 young single soldiers, 30 young married soldiers, 76 older married soldiers and 17 officers.

The commanding officer of each unit in which one or more men had been selected in our initial 'double' sample was contacted by post. A list of the selected men in their unit was enclosed and information was requested about these men in order to determine their current eligibility. Of the 120 units contacted all except 3 replied. Table 4 shows the numbers of men in the double sample who were serving in the units which failed to reply — obviously not all these men would have been eligible for interview.

Table 4 Non-respondents of double sample

	Young single	Young married	Older married	Young officers
Initial sample size	500	400	400	140
Numbers in units which failed to respond	24	10	9	3

From the returned information men in the following categories were rejected as being ineligible for inclusion in the survey:

- (1) those who had died, or left the Army
- (2) those who had been posted and so were no longer stationed at the selected garrisons
- (3) soldiers in samples a or b (young single and young married soldiers) who had been promoted to a rank higher than lance-corporal
- (4) those in sample c (older married soldiers) who had been commissioned
- (5) soldiers in sample a who had married
- (6) those in samples b, c, and d who were widowed, divorced or (maritally) separated.

The numbers in each of these categories are given in Table 5.

Table 5 Numbers ineligible for interview by sample type

	Young single	Young married	Older married	Young officers
Died or left the Army	21	13	14	2
Posted from garrison	74	34	43	16
Promoted	1	2	—	—
Married	11	—	—	—
Divorced/widowed/separated	—	4	5	—
Unit moved/disbanded	7	13	8	4
Total ineligible	114	66	70	22

In addition it was decided not to allocate for interview those single soldiers who would be absent from the garrison for the whole of the field period. These men

were technically eligible for the survey and their loss must be taken into account when interpreting the results. However, as it is doubtful whether more than a small proportion of them could have been contacted, interviewing was considered to be inefficient. But of a total of 362 eligible single men 46 (12.7 per cent) were thus excluded.

It should be noted that married men were not excluded because of absence since interviews were sought with their wives.

On account of the computer department's other commitments the sample of computer records had to be drawn several months before the field period, by which time changes had occurred. These fell into the following categories:

- (1) changes in eligibility

Interviews were inappropriate for men who had left the Army or who were no longer eligible due to marriage, divorce or promotion. It was unfortunately not possible due to inadequate records to draw a supplementary sample of new recruits or men who became eligible for inclusion during the 3 months before the field period.

- (2) postings

The frequent movement of Army personnel was one of the major considerations when designing the sample for this survey. Consequently two possible sample designs were examined:

- (a) interview selected men despite their present location. This was rejected due to the lack of resources available to follow up and interview those men who had been posted away from the sampled garrisons (and the impossibility of interviewing abroad). It would have also required a large number of additional garrison and unit contacts.
- (b) interview only those selected men who were still stationed in the sampled garrisons and, in order to maintain a representative sample draw a supplementary sample of men who moved into these garrisons in the 3 months prior to the field period. This method was accepted in principle. Thus units which moved into the 18 garrisons were included in the survey. It was not possible however, to draw samples of men who moved in on individual postings (independently of units) because of the lack of suitable records.

7.3 Final sampling stage

Table 6 shows the numbers remaining in each group after the exclusions described above.

The final stage of sampling involved drawing a systematic random sample of the required number for interview (see paragraph 3).

The experiences of men in combat units, particularly with respect to the amount of movement and separation, might be expected to be quite different from those

Table 6 Numbers eligible for interview by sample type

	Young single	Young married	Older married	Young officers
Total sample in responding units	476	390	391	137
Ineligible	114	66	70	22
Per cent ineligible	24.0	16.9	17.9	16.1
Eligible	362	324	32	115
Other exclusions	46	—	—	—
Remaining sample	316	324	32	115

†young single men absent from garrison for whole field period.

Table 8 Numbers and proportion of achieved interviews

	Young single soldiers			Young married soldiers			Older married soldiers			Young officers		
		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%
Set sample allocated to interviewers	253	100		200	100		199	100		70	100	
Left Army	6	2		3	1.5		—	—		—	—	
Posted	5	2		5	2.5		3	1.5		—	—	
Otherwise ineligible	11	4		11	5.5		11	5.5		—	—	
Total eligible	231	91	100	181	90.5	100	185	92.5	100	70	100	100
Non contacts	21	8	9	7	3.5	4	—	—		2	3	3
Refusals	2	1	1	—	—	—	5	2.5	3	—	—	—
Achieved interviews	208	82	90	174	87	96	180	90	97	68	97	97

in the non-combat units. Before the final sample selection was made units were stratified according to whether they were combatant or not and the same proportion of men was selected in each category.

The numbers in the four groups by garrison cluster are shown in Table 7.

8 Interviewing response rates

Table 8 gives a breakdown of the set samples allocated to interviewers showing the numbers of men who were found to be ineligible and the number of interviews

Table 7 Distribution of garrison groups into sample type

Garrison group	Young single soldiers	Young married soldiers	Older married soldiers	Young officers
1	81	60	76	34
2	27	19	10	4
3	89	74	60	13
4	8	4	8	—
5	48	43	45	19
Total	253	200	199	70

achieved. Ineligible men are divided into three categories: those who had left the Army, those who had been posted and those who no longer fulfilled the eligibility criteria as described in paragraph 2 (due to marriage, divorce or promotion). As anticipated the number of non-contacts in the young single soldier sample was higher than in the other samples. Only seven men refused to participate in the survey and 624 interviews, in total, were achieved.

Denise Lievesley
Sampling Branch

Appendix 2

The questionnaire

ARMY WELFARE SURVEY		S 1060																					
YOUNG SINGLE SOLDIERS																							
OPCS Social Survey Division	Interviewer Name _____ Authorisation No. _____ Date of Interview _____	Area No. <input type="text"/>	Person No. <input type="text"/>																				
<p>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</p> <p>1. What is your Arm or Corps?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Household Cavalry/RAC (Royal Armoured Corps).....1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>RA (Royal Artillery).....2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>RE (Royal Engineers).....3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Sigs (Royal Corps of Signals).....4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infantry.....5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACT (Royal Corps of Transport).....6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers).....7</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>RMP (Royal Military Police).....8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAPC (Royal Army Pay Corps).....9</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Arm/Corps (SPECIFY).....11</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Household Cavalry/RAC (Royal Armoured Corps).....1		RA (Royal Artillery).....2		RE (Royal Engineers).....3		R. Sigs (Royal Corps of Signals).....4		Infantry.....5		ACT (Royal Corps of Transport).....6		REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers).....7		RMP (Royal Military Police).....8		RAPC (Royal Army Pay Corps).....9		Other Arm/Corps (SPECIFY).....11	
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RAPC (Royal Army Pay Corps).....9																							
Other Arm/Corps (SPECIFY).....11																							
<p>2. What is your present paid rank?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Privates.....1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lance Corporal.....2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other ranks (SPECIFY).....3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Privates.....1		Lance Corporal.....2		Other ranks (SPECIFY).....3															
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<p>3. Are you married, single, widowed, divorced or separated?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Married.....1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single.....2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widowed, divorced, separated.....3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				Married.....1		Single.....2		Widowed, divorced, separated.....3															
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No	2																						
<p>10. Immediately before you joined the Army were you at a boarding school or living with your parents or elsewhere?</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>At a boarding school.....1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Living with Parents.....2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Living elsewhere.....3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		At a boarding school.....1		Living with Parents.....2		Living elsewhere.....3		<p>11. At the time you joined the Army were any of your relatives or close friends in the Services.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>		Yes	1	No	2										
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12. Thinking back to before you joined, what in particular did you feel
 0 you would like about the Army?

13. Again thinking back to before you joined, was there anything you
 0 thought you would dislike about the Army?

(a) What did you think you might dislike?
 0

Yes
 No
 DK

1 ask (a)
 2 go to Q14
 3

14. Again thinking back to before you joined, is Army life in any way
 0 better than you thought it would be?

Yes
 No
 DK

1 ask (a)
 2 go to Q15
 3

(a) In what ways is it better?
 0

15. Again thinking back to before you joined, is Army life in any way
 0 worse than you thought it would be?

Yes
 No
 DK

1 ask (a)
 2 go to Q16
 3

(a) In what ways is it worse?
 0

16. On the whole, would you say Army life has been better or worse than you expected?

- Better.....1
Worse.....2
As expected.....3

SPONTANEOUS ONLY

17. How long have you currently signed on for?

- 3 years.....1
6 years.....2
9 years.....3
Others (SPECIFY).....4

18. Do you think you will complete your present engagement?

- Yes.....1
No.....2
DK.....3

(a) Will you be extending your present engagement?

- Yes.....1
No.....2
DK.....3
Depends.....4
(SPECIFY).....4

CONTACT WITH PARENTS

19. Are your parents still alive?

- Yes, both.....1
Yes, either.....2
Yes, father.....3
Neither.....4

(a) Have you anyone you regard as taking your parents' place?

- Yes.....1
No.....2

(b) Except when you are posted abroad how often do you usually see your parent(s) (foster parent(s))?

- At least once a month.....1
At least once every 6 months.....2
Less than once every 6 months.....3
Others (SPECIFY).....4

PROMPT AS
NECESSARY

20. Do you find moving in the Army makes it difficult to see your parent(s) (foster parent(s)) as much as you would like?

- Yes.....1
No.....2
Never posted/moved.....3

21. Do you find moving around in the Army makes it difficult to help your parent(s) (foster parent(s)) if they need help, as much as you would like?

- Yes.....1
No.....2

(a) Do you think the Army could do anything to help?

- Yes.....1
No.....2

(i) What do you think the Army could do to help?

- Yes.....1
No.....2

22. Is there anyone who is financially dependent on you in any way?

- Yes.....1
No.....2

(a) Who is financially dependent on you?

- Parents (including foster parents etc).....1
Brothers/Sisters.....2
Other relatives.....3
Other (SPECIFY).....4

CONTACT WITH CIVILIAN AND OTHER PEOPLE IN THE ARMY

23. Would you say that most of your close friends come from...

0
 RUNNING PROMPT
 the civilian community.....1
 other civilian community.....2
 or are they equally divided between
 the two?.....3

24. On the whole, do you think that being in the Army prevents you
 0 from making close friendships with civilians or not?

Yes, prevents.....1 ask (a)
 No, does not prevent.....2 go to Q25
 DK.....3

(a) What is it that prevents you making close friendships with
 0 civilians?

(a) Have you experienced hostile attitudes or resentment from the
 civilian community concerning.....

INDIVIDUAL PROMPT

Service in pubs, clubs, cafes?
 Service in the Army?
 Anything else? (SPECIFY)

Yes
 1
 2
 3
 No
 X
 X
 X

25. (In the last 2 or 3 years) have you experienced any kind of hostile
 attitude or resentment from the civilian community in this country
 which you felt was due to your being in the services?

Yes
 No
 DK

1 ask (a)
 2 go to Q26
 3

CONTACT WITH GIRLFRIENDS

26. Do you have a steady girlfriend/fiancee?

Yes
 No

1 ask Q27
 2 go to Q30

27. Did you start going out with her before you joined the Army?

Yes
 No

1
 2

28. How far away does she live from your present location?

Under 10 miles.....1
 10 miles but under 50.....2
 50 miles but under 100.....3
 Over 100 miles.....4
 Outside U.K.....5

29. Are you thinking of getting married in the near future?

Yes
No

IF CODE 2 AT Q18 ask (a) OTHERS GO TO (b)

(a) Will you be getting married before you hope to leave the Army?

Yes
No

(b) Does your girlfriend/fiancee have a good idea of what it would be like to be married to a soldier or not?

Yes
No
DN

(1) What advantages of Army life does she know about?

0

(11) What disadvantages of Army life does she know about?

NUMBER OF MOVES/POSTINGS

30. INTERVIEWER CHECKS: Has informant been in the Army for 5 years or more - see Q6.....

Yes X ask (a)
No Y ask (b)

(a) How many times have you been posted in the past 5 years?

Never.....1
Once.....2
Twice.....3
Three times.....4
Four times or more.....5

PROMPT AS NECESSARY

(b) How many times have you been posted since you joined the Army?

Never.....1
Once.....2
Twice.....3
Three times.....4
Four times or more.....5

PROMPT AS NECESSARY

31. In the last 12 months, that is since...., how many weeks in all have you spent away from permanent barracks on

tours in Northern Ireland

INDIVIDUAL

PROMPT

Other tours outside the U.K.

Exercises, training course, or other duties in U.K.

TOTAL

WEEKS

DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

32. Is there anyone on the camp you feel you could turn to if you had any difficulties with regard to money, problems with girlfriends/fiancee or other problems?

Yes
No

(a) Who is that? (SHOW CARD A)

Commanding Officer
Other officer
Warrant Officer or NCO
Wife of Officer, Warrant Officer, or NCO
NCO doctor
Army doctor
Padre
Paymaster
Families officer
Housing commandant or estate warden
Others (SPECIFY)

1 ask (a)
2 go to (b)

1
2
3
4 go to Q35
5
6
7
8
9
10

(b) Who would you go to for help?
0

33. Do you think there should be a particular person on the camp to whom you could go if you had a personal problem?
0

(a) Should this person be...
0

Yes	No
1	2
ask (a), (b) and (c)	2 go to Q34

a civilian or military person?
either/OK

based at the garrison or with the regiment
either/OK

someone in uniform or someone in civilian dress
either/OK

a man or a woman?
either/OK

SPONTANEOUS ONLY → Both/one of each

(b) Would you rather this person was professionally qualified in social work or not?
0

Yes, qualified.....1
No, not qualified.....2
Either/OK.....3

(c) Would you rather this person was the rank of officer or equivalent or not?
0

Yes, officer
No, not officer
Either/OK

34. (a) In the last 12 months have you had any problems regarding any of the following (including those you have already mentioned) - (PROMPT FROM LIST IN BOX)

EACH TYPE OF PROBLEM CODED YES TO (a) ASX (b) - IF NO PROBLEMS GO TO Q36

(b) Did you seek help over....

FOR EACH TYPE OF PROBLEM CODED YES TO (b) - NO HELP SOUGHT ... X GO TO Q35

(c) Who did you go to? (SHOW CARD B)

(d) On the whole was ... helpful or not?
0

TYPE OF PROBLEM	(a) YES NO	(b) YES NO	(c) HELP SOUGHT FROM ENTER CODE NO:	(d) YES NO
Accommodation	1 X	1 Y		1 0
Money	2 X	2 Y		2 0
Your parent(s) (foster parents)	3 X	3 Y		3 0
Your Girlfriends/Finances	4 X	4 Y		4 0
Your own Health	5 X	5 Y		5 0
Loneliness	6 X	6 Y		6 0
Anything else (SPECIFY)	7 X	7 Y		7 0

35. Can you tell me more about these problems?
PROMPT FULLY

36. What, if anything, do you think the Army could do to improve the welfare of single soldiers?

NOTE: The questions put to young married and older married soldiers and to married officers were similar to the above but included some additional questions. Officers of these units should be asked to return from Room 405, Social Survey Division, OCSB, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JF



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